

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of streaming media to a client comprising:
receiving a request from a client for a media stream;
computing a receiving procedure for the client;
transmitting the receiving procedure to the client; and
initiating a first multicast stream such that the client can utilize the receiving procedure to receive a first portion of the media stream from the first multicast stream and a second portion of the media stream from a second multicast stream,
wherein said receiving procedure comprises a time schedule associated with the transmission of said first portion of said media stream and said second portion of said media stream.
2. (Original) The invention of claim 1 wherein the client can further utilize the receiving procedure to receive a third portion of the media stream from a third multicast stream.
3. (Original) The invention of claim 1 wherein the receiving procedure is computed after a step of computing a merge tree incorporating the request from the client.
4. (Original) The invention of claim 3 wherein the merge tree is a Fibonacci merge tree.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of streaming media to a plurality of clients comprising:
 - receiving reservation requests for a media stream from a plurality of clients;
 - constructing a merge tree based on the reservation requests;
 - scheduling a plurality of multicast transmissions of the media stream based on the merge tree; and
 - transmitting to a first client in said plurality of clients a time schedule associated with said plurality of multicast transmissions.
6. (Original) The invention of claim 5 wherein the merge tree is constructed to minimize the cost of the merge tree.
7. (Original) The invention of claim 6 wherein the merge tree is a Fibonacci merge tree.
8. (Original) The invention of claim 5 wherein the merge tree is constructed to minimize the cost of a forest of merge trees further comprising the merge tree.
9. (Currently Amended) A method of streaming media to a plurality of clients comprising:
 - constructing a merge tree based on anticipated requests for a media stream;
 - scheduling a plurality of multicast transmissions of the media stream based on the merge tree; and
 - transmitting to a first client in said plurality of clients a time schedule associated with said plurality of multicast transmissions.
10. (Original) The invention of claim 9 wherein the anticipated requests for the media stream are scheduled to arrive at every time unit.
11. (Original) The invention of claim 10 wherein the merge tree is a Fibonacci merge tree.

12. (Original) The invention of claim 9 wherein the merge tree is a static merge tree with a fixed number of nodes.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of streaming media to a client comprising:

receiving a request from a client for a media stream;
taking a first merge tree further comprising a right frontier and constructing a second merge tree which incorporates the request into the right frontier of the first merge tree; and

scheduling a plurality of multicast transmissions of the media stream, including a multicast transmission to the client, based on the second merge tree; and
transmitting to said client a time schedule associated with said multicast transmission to the client.

14. (Original) The invention of claim 13 wherein the second merge tree is constructed to minimize an incremental merge cost.

15. (Original) The invention of claim 13 wherein the second merge tree is constructed such that the request is represented as a node of a parent node in the first merge tree closest to the node.

16. (Original) The invention of claim 13 wherein the second merge tree is an infinite merge tree.

17. (Original) The invention of claim 16 wherein the infinite merge tree is an infinite Fibonacci merge tree.

18. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium comprising executable program instructions for performing a method on a computer comprising the steps of:

transmitting a request for a media stream to a server;
obtaining a receiving procedure from the server; and

in accordance with instructions in the receiving procedure, receiving and buffering a first portion of the media stream from a first multicast channel while receiving and buffering a second portion of the media stream from a second multicast channel,

wherein said receiving procedure comprises a time schedule associated with the transmission of said first portion of said media stream and said second portion of said media stream.